

## **Development Challenges, South-South Solutions: October 2011 Issue**

### **Stories**

#### **1) Indian Mobile Phone Application Innovators Empower Citizens**

With mobile phones becoming ubiquitous across the global South, the opportunity to make money - and possible fortunes - by providing 'apps' for these devices is now a reality.

Apps ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_software)) - applications which allow users of new mobile phones to do everything from running a business to banking to navigating chaotic cities - have quickly become a very creative space and a dynamic market for innovators and entrepreneurs. Because they are pieces of software and are relatively inexpensive to create, requiring only time and hard work, an individual working out of their home can develop an app, introduce it to the online marketplace and see if it will succeed.

The only limit is the imagination.

They are also a great way to solve people's problems and possibly make some money in the process. As economies and cities grow across the South, many everyday difficulties can be tackled with these apps.

Apps are revolutionary because they solve the problem of how to view websites on mobile phones and smartphones (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smartphone>). Apps are designed for a small screen and have simple functionality and design. They often can function without any constant connection to the Internet, updating themselves sporadically when the phone can connect with phone networks or the Internet. They are also either free or inexpensive, using micro-payments to make a profit. The essence of the micro-payment business model is to charge a small amount and turn this into a large amount by having large numbers of people download the app. It is a successful business formula that has made many vast fortunes throughout the age of the mass consumer market, which began in the late 19th century.

Bart Decrem, co-founder of Tapulous, a maker of apps for the iPhone (<http://tapulous.com>), told The Economist: "Apps are nuggets of magic."

Apps are sold in online stores run by companies like Apple (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/genre/ios/id36?mt=8>), Google, Sweden's GetJar (<http://www.getjar.com>), and South Korea's SK Telecom. Apple's store has over 425,000 apps and Google's Android Market has more than 250,000. Other stores include Mobihand, PocketGear, Mobango, Handango, Blackberry App World and Handster (<http://www.handster.com>).

Research firm Gartner ([www.gartner.com/technology/home.jsp](http://www.gartner.com/technology/home.jsp)) estimated that 18 billion apps have been downloaded since Apple opened its first app store in 2008. Remarkably, it forecasts this number could rise to 49 billion by

2013. The most popular topics include games, weather forecasts, social networks, maps, music and news.

The dynamic documented so far for apps seems to follow the way music charts work. A few apps, out of the many on offer, become big sellers and popular favourites, getting the most users. Partly this reflects the difficulty of quickly searching through all the apps available in the world to find the right one, a process that favours well-marketed apps.

The recent TechSparks 2011 App4India ([www.facebook.com/techspark](http://www.facebook.com/techspark)) contest showcased the creative thinking about apps now happening in India.

One Indian success story is the 1000Lookz ([www.vdime.com/pro1.htm](http://www.vdime.com/pro1.htm)) app, developed by Vasan Sowriraj ([www.vdime.com/about.htm](http://www.vdime.com/about.htm)), which helps women perform a virtual beauty makeover. A woman can check what shades work best for her skin tone by using her own photos uploaded to the app. The user adds features like foundation, blush, gloss, eye-shadow, eye-liner and lipstick. The app uses facial recognition and skin tone detection technology to assist the virtual makeover. It was developed by VDime Innovative Works headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, with its technology developed by its Indian division.

1000Lookz' mission is to create "innovative products that bring cheer to consumers' faces."

Sowriraj got his experience from working as a key member of the team developing special image processing for the Indian Space and Research Organisation ([www.isro.org](http://www.isro.org)).

The same team has also developed another service enabling users to transform standard emoticons - those cartoons used in electronic communications to convey emotions - into emoticons using your own face image. It is called Humecons ([www.humecons.com](http://www.humecons.com)), and its slogan is "Emote Yourself".

The India TV Guide, based in Bangalore, India's software hub ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Tech\\_Park,\\_Bangalore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Tech_Park,_Bangalore)), is a mobile phone application developed by Jini Labs ([www.jinilabs.com](http://www.jinilabs.com)) offering programme listings for 150 television channels broadcast in India, and allows viewers to save reminders for favourite shows and build favourites lists.

Jini Labs also makes Jini Books (<http://itunes.apple.com/in/app/jinibooks/id404988026?mt=8>), a clever app to display books, magazines and journals that are hard to find in conventional shops. It is free and promises to have "indie book authors and publishers - including small size, mid-size independent publishers, university presses, e-book publishers, and self-published authors."

A very useful app improving people's lives is the Indian Railway Lite app. India's railways are a critical part of the country's economy, and the world's

largest railway system. The complexity of trying to work out the train schedule has been made easier with the app.

Founded by Srinath Reddy, the app's chief technology officer at RSG Software Services ([www.rsgss.com](http://www.rsgss.com)), the app enables users to discover train connections between stations, and find which trains pass through stations, while navigating the Indian Railways website. It is a good example of how an app can quickly become a big hit. It became the second most popular on the Apple India app store and is downloaded more than 1,000 times a day.

One of the advantages of the app is its ability to function without access to the Internet. It draws on its own database of information and offers a friendlier user interface than the Indian State Railways website.

"This feature has proved to be very popular as users can access train information even while they are travelling and are out of network range," Reddy told Yourstory.in. "We update the app at regular intervals and the user has to download a new version of the app to get updated information. Trains are generally added once in a few months and the timetable does not change significantly, so the user can use the same version until the next one is released."

The app's creators initially found it difficult to get information and updates from Indian Railways.

"We took around four to five months to build the app," Reddy said. "Significant effort went into compiling the train and station data as this was not easily available. Refining the UI (user interface) took quite some time as well."

The company saw a market for the app because there were so many iPhone (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPhone>) users in India. The app was downloaded 45,000 times between June and September, and other versions, including one for Google Android ([www.android.com](http://www.android.com)) are in the works to broaden access to people without an iPhone.

The company has its headquarters in Ranchi, India and has four development centers in India located in Delhi, Pune, Ranchi and Hyderabad. Currently, the company has approximately 250 employees with core competencies in Apple, Filemaker and Open Source technologies.

The Tuk Tuk 2 app is a clever and practical application for users of India's ubiquitous motorized and bicycle rickshaws. They are an important part of the country's transport infrastructure - but a journey in one can be a stressful experience for many reasons. This app seeks to lesson the stress.

Tuk Tuk 2 app (<https://market.android.com/details?id=com.mindhelix.tuktuk2&hl=en>) is designed to introduce fairness to the auto rickshaw marketplace. It empowers travellers to track where they are on a journey, check the fare and find the distance covered. It helps to reduce exploitation of travellers and makes sure

they know where they are at all times: a powerful resource in crowded, busy and confusing cities.

It was developed by Mind Helix Technologies ([www.mindhelix.com](http://www.mindhelix.com)), founded in 2009 as a dedicated application development company with a mission to empower people with its apps. And that is really what apps are all about!

## **LINKS:**

1) Mobile phone boot camp: Entrepreneurial Programming and Research on Mobiles: **Website:**

[www.media.mit.edu/ventures/EPROM/entrepreneurship.html](http://www.media.mit.edu/ventures/EPROM/entrepreneurship.html)

2) Mobile Active: MobileActive.org connects people, organizations, and resources using mobile technology for social change.**Website:**

<http://mobileactive.org/>

3) Teams of motorcyclists with mobile phones in Lagos, Nigeria take pictures of traffic gridlock and open road, send it to central control, who grade it "slow", "moving" or "free" and in turn send the message to subscribers. **Website:**

[www.traffic.com.ng](http://www.traffic.com.ng)

4) Southern Innovator magazine: New global magazine's first issue tackles the boom in mobile phone and information technologies across the global South. **Website:** [www.scribd.com/doc/57980406/Southern-Innovator-Issue-1](http://www.scribd.com/doc/57980406/Southern-Innovator-Issue-1)

## **2) Mapping Beirut Brings City to Light**

As cities in the global South grow ever larger, their often-chaotic evolution can create sprawling urban mazes that would confuse even the brightest brains.

Streets can be unnamed, unnumbered, twisty, full of dead ends and alleys. Informal settlements can pop up within weeks, whole neighbourhoods are razed to the ground and replaced by gleaming office buildings and apartments within months. Some countries experience political instability and conflict, disrupting daily life and making planning difficult. All this chaos makes business and travel more inefficient, especially to visiting businesspeople looking to trade or tourists simply wanting to look around.

When a city fails to communicate its treasures, something is lost for both parties: the city's businesses lose valuable custom and the visitor or resident fails to grasp what is on offer. How will you find the restaurant you want, or that shop with the just-right fashions?

Beirut is a city that has had its ups and downs. Once called "the Paris of the Middle East" for its beauty and cosmopolitan atmosphere, it descended into decades of civil war and unrest from 1975, most recently in 2006 it had a war with Israel. Its residents have grown used to a city of turmoil and rapid

change. They also have grown used to a city that people navigate by landmarks rather than street names.

Bahi Ghubril grew fed up with the frustration of having to always ask people for directions to get around the city, or getting stuck behind drivers begging pedestrians for directions.

Inspired by London's famous A-Z ([www.a-zmaps.co.uk](http://www.a-zmaps.co.uk)), he researched and launched the Zawarib Beirut Road Atlas in 2005 (<http://twitter.com/#!/zawaribworld>) and ([www.facebook.com/zawarib](http://www.facebook.com/zawarib)).

It is part of a new trend across the global South: people using the slew of new information technologies and online resources to map and discover their neighbourhoods and cities. In turn, this is fuelling economic growth as people can find businesses and promote themselves to buyers and customers.

It took Ghubril two years to put together the first guide, gathering street images from satellite photos and then combining them with information collected on foot and from local mayors and cartographers.

"The project was born from a need to organise the city," he told Monocle magazine, "but also as a socio-political project to open up the city to its residents and visitors."

As an entrepreneur, Ghubril had no previous experience in publishing. He has been an actor and worked in finance.

During the research for the guide, Ghubril developed a rich knowledge of the city's structure, its bureaucracy and how people really live their lives. His willingness to do this hard work is paying off.

Zawarib Beirut - which translates as Beirut Alleys - has successfully expanded into editions covering nearby cities, a pocket version, eight versions colourfully decorated by local artists, and the first Beirut bus map.

The service has a database including thousands of street names, landmarks, sectors and districts within the 34 municipal regions making up Greater Beirut. It includes useful phone numbers, car parks and a bus map. During holidays, like the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, it publishes a map of all of Beirut's mosques.

Ghubril promotes the guide directly to the city's residents. Wearing blue and black t-shirts asking "Lost? ask me," young women help to distribute the guide on the streets of Beirut.

Other mapping projects depend on the mobile phones that are more and more part of daily life in the South's slums - even for the poorest people. With the spread of mobile phones, it is becoming possible to develop a digital picture of a slum area and map its needs and population. It has become possible to

undertake digital mapping initiatives to truly find out who is where and what is actually going on.

An NGO called Map Kibera ([www.mapkibera.org](http://www.mapkibera.org)) is working on an ambitious project to digitally map Africa's largest slum, Kibera in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Map Kibera project uses an open-source software programme, OpenStreetMap ([www.openstreetmap.org](http://www.openstreetmap.org)), to allow users to edit and add information as it is gathered. This information is then free to use by anybody wanting to grasp what is actually happening in Kibera: residents, NGOs, private companies and government officials.

It will literally put Kibera on Kenya's map.

In Brazil, an NGO called Rede Jovem ([www.redejovem.org.br](http://www.redejovem.org.br)) is deploying youths armed with GPS (global positioning system)-equipped ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global\\_Positioning\\_System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Positioning_System)) mobile phones to map the favelas of Rio de Janeiro.

The mappers physically travel around the favela and upload information on each individual landmark (restaurants, roads etc.) as they go. They use Nokia N95s mobile phones that are connected to Google Maps ([www.maps.google.com](http://www.maps.google.com)). The project then uses Wikimapia ([www.wikimapia.org.br](http://www.wikimapia.org.br)), and Twitter ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)) to log the information.

## **LINKS:**

- 1) Zawarib Beirut Road Atlas: The Zawarib Beirut can be purchased from Amazon's website. **Website:** [www.amazon.co.uk/Zawarib-Beirut-Greater-Atlas/dp/9953005311](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Zawarib-Beirut-Greater-Atlas/dp/9953005311)
- 2) Google Maps: A treasure trove of global maps and data. **Website:** <http://maps.google.co.uk/>
- 3) Google Street View: A global database of photographs showing neighbourhoods and streets. **Website:** [http://maps.google.com/intl/en/help/maps/streetview/#utm\\_campaign=en&utm\\_medium=van&utm\\_source=en-van-na-us-gns-svn](http://maps.google.com/intl/en/help/maps/streetview/#utm_campaign=en&utm_medium=van&utm_source=en-van-na-us-gns-svn)
- 4) Google Maps for mobile: Use Google Maps on your phone, and never carry a paper map again. **Website:** [www.google.co.uk/mobile/maps/](http://www.google.co.uk/mobile/maps/)

### **3) Putting Quality and Design at the Centre of Chinese Fashion**

Awareness of the sourcing of materials for fashion has been on the rise in the past decade. Concerns about how the global fashion industry functions and its impact on the environment have given rise to savvy retailers who take care over the sourcing of their materials and the working conditions of their employees. Consumers have shown a willingness to pay a little more to know

that a garment is sustainably produced and has the lowest possible impact on the environment.

The global textile industry is the second biggest consumer of water in the world. The dyeing processes used by these manufacturers do extensive damage to the water table that is used for drinking water.

In China, there have been violent demonstrations over working conditions and increasing concern over the health consequences of many modern manufacturing methods. In order to get change, new business models need to emerge, and consumers and customers need to be educated and to demand better-quality, low- or non-polluting products.

One business has accomplished something remarkable: it has succeeded in producing high-quality, ethically sourced products while also employing vulnerable people who have significant care duties and need a flexible and understanding employer.

NuoMi ([www.nuomishanghai.com](http://www.nuomishanghai.com)) has three stores and a store/design studio in Shanghai, China. NuoMi means "sticky rice" in Mandarin ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandarin\\_Chinese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandarin_Chinese)). It was founded by Filipino fashion designer Bonita Lim, a mother of four, who uses her business to help single mothers and the less fortunate.

NuoMi is also pioneering sustainable and green goods for the Chinese market. This is unusual in a country more known for its sweatshop, low-wage manufacturing industries that have propelled the country into an economic powerhouse.

NuoMi sells women's clothing made from sustainable sources while creating jobs for people from disadvantaged communities. There are organic cotton, bamboo, silk and wool garments, and no artificial dyes or synthetic materials are used.

The design team works on colourful knitwear, dresses and baby clothes. They also offer a custom order service.

"When I was 13 or 14 years old, I dreamed of building a special company that could help people who have trouble finding a job," Lim told the Global Times.

"I called the name of my brand NuoMi, which is (the) Chinese name for sticky rice ... Our company works like sticky rice; we support and love each other."

Born in the Philippines and educated in Canada, Lim had become frustrated while working with the Filipino government and wanted to help the poor. She started NuoMi in 2006 in Shanghai, a city booming as China's economy continues to grow. It is also a city with a population with long-standing sophisticated consumer tastes. Shanghai had been home to various foreign concessions before the Communists took power and its population was exposed to foreign languages, cultures and tastes.

Lim became a single mother after she divorced, and this experience made her sympathetic to how hard life is for single mothers. Drawing on her passion for fashion, she hired a designer to work with her on designing a line of clothing.

"I was surprised that many of my friends really liked my designs, so they asked me to design clothes for them and introduced some clients to me," Lim told Global Times. "I tried to design and sell clothes abroad. I got a lot of good feedback, but it exhausted me so I decided to work in Shanghai."

Despite starting out as a hobby, the business had built a network of 20 clients. It had become impossible to just do it part-time so she formalised the business as Nuomi. She began hiring single mothers in prison in the Philippines and designed clothing that could be easily made by them.

"Those single mothers in prison were very anxious because they had no way to help their children. Most of them committed crimes because they needed money for their kids," Lim said.

By 2008 she had built a professional design team and now had 60 clients. With the brand Nuomi growing, she opened its first store. This has grown to four stores in Shanghai. Most of the company's workforce is now in Shanghai but they are still people living in a vulnerable situation.

Nuomi's newly opened store in 2008 carried a spring and summer collection of long dresses made from bamboo, cotton and soya. These fabrics were chosen for their breathability in the hot, steamy Shanghai weather.

One of the employees is 52-year-old Zhu Linfang, who takes care of a stroke-damaged father and a mother with liver cancer. "I was introduced through a friend. They paid me more than other companies. At my age almost no company wants to hire me, but working for Nuomi, I earn between 2,000 yuan (US \$300) and 3,000 yuan per month," she said.

Other employees look after ill children and have care duties that occupy much of their time. They do sewing and make toys for Nuomi.

Lim takes the time to train the employees to make sure they can do the work to a high standard.

"I tried to design products that were both suitable for them to make and could be sold in the market," she said.

Nuomi also sells environmentally friendly glycerine soaps in flavours from mango to chocolate, jewellery made from recycled industrial materials and bathwear, pillows, and purses. The stores even carry matching mother-daughter and father-son clothing.

Wisely, service is offered in Chinese and English to customers - Shanghai is a popular destination for tourists. Nuomi is clearly a trail-blazer and a business to watch.

## **LINKS:**

1) Ecodesignfair: Eco Design Fair is a bi-annual grass-roots community event whose purpose is to showcase eco-conscious designers and products to general consumers. **Website:** [www.ecodesignfair.cn](http://www.ecodesignfair.cn)

2) Nest: Another eco-conscious design company in Shanghai. Its motto is "design with a conscience". **Website:** [www.nestshanghai.com/nest.html](http://www.nestshanghai.com/nest.html)

### **4) Cheap Indian Tablet Seeks to Bridge Digital Divide**

India has had many false starts in innovating in information technology. While the country and its talented army of software engineers have a global reputation for innovation, the fits and starts that have accompanied attempts to create new hardware and devices have drawn a range of emotions, from amusement to frustration.

India faces an urgent problem: the country is falling behind others in the global South in access to the Internet. Based on 2009 data, there are 5.1 Internet users for every 100 Indians. This compares poorly with Brazil at 39.2 per 100 and China at 28.5.

The challenge is to find inexpensive devices that allow people to access the Internet through mobile phone networks. With 37 percent of India's 1.21 billion people living below the official poverty line - and some estimates placing the number at up to 77 percent - cheap devices are urgently needed to reach the poor. A study developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), found eight Indian states account for more poor people than the 26 poorest African countries combined. The Indian states had 421 million "poor" people, compared to 410 million poor in the poorest African countries, it concluded.

The World Bank recently criticised India for lacklustre results in addressing poverty levels.

Five years ago, the Indian government launched a competitive search for an inexpensive device for the masses. The government has been supporting the development of these devices through its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (Sakshat) ([www.sakshat.ac.in](http://www.sakshat.ac.in)). It aims to link 25,000 colleges and 400 universities in India in an e-learning program.

The motivation behind these attempts is a good one: to try and find an affordable device to bridge the digital divide ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital\\_divide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_divide)) and reach the majority of the population living on less than US \$2 a day.

But the search has had mixed results.

Low points included a failed attempt to make a rival to the One Laptop Per Child ([www.onelaptop.org](http://www.onelaptop.org)) computer from MIT (Massachusetts Institute for Technology) with an Indian version selling for US \$10. What was offered instead in 2009 was a device with no screen or keyboard, requiring an additional laptop and paper to access its stored files. It was also made in Taiwan, rather than India.

Another first stab at making a US \$35 tablet computer was launched in 2010 with much fanfare, but by January 2011 the Indian government had dropped manufacturers HCL Technologies for failing to honour its 600 million rupee (US \$13 million) contract.

What these first steps show is the complexity of hardware development and how challenging it is to get the user experience right for customers while keeping the price affordable.

But India recently relaunched what it is calling the world's cheapest tablet computer, selling for US \$35. It is called Aakash ([www.akashslate.com](http://www.akashslate.com)) ([www.aakashcomputer.co.in](http://www.aakashcomputer.co.in)), meaning "sky" in the Sanskrit language, and is being sold as an e-learning tool to bridge the digital divide in the country.

The utility of tablets ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tablet\\_personal\\_computer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tablet_personal_computer)) and e-readers ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_e-book\\_readers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_e-book_readers)) for people in the global South is clear: they can enable people to bypass the lack of local library facilities to store vast personal archives of books. This is a powerful educational tool: imagine a village doctor with easy access to thousands of medical texts and papers, or a child preparing for university exams no longer having to worry they can find study texts. It also is a cost-effective way to publish in many local languages and break the stranglehold English-language publishing has had on delivering e-books.

Aakash will be sold for US \$35 to educational institutions and marketed for private sale for US \$61 under the UbiSlate brand name ([www.ubisurfer.com](http://www.ubisurfer.com)). It is also hoped the tablet can be sold in the UK and the USA.

Jointly developed by engineers in India, Canada and the UK, it will be assembled at DataWind's manufacturing plant in Hyderabad, India (<http://datawind.com/products.html>). Datawind also makes other low-cost, portable devices like the PocketSurfer3 ([www.pocketsurfer.co.uk](http://www.pocketsurfer.co.uk)).

The project is run by two Indian-born Canadians, DataWind chief executive officer Suneet Singh Tuli and his brother Raja Singh Tuli.

Based in Montreal, Canada, DataWind bills itself as "a leading developer of wireless web access products and services."

Suneet Singh Tuli wants to sell 1 million tablets a month. The first 100,000 tablets are being bought by the Indian government and then sold to university students.

The Aakash uses the Google Android operating system (<http://www.android.com>) and has a WiFi capability, 17.78 centimetre wide screen, two USB ports (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USB>) and battery that can last three hours. It can stream high-definition videos, read e-books and run Microsoft Windows Office applications.

The components in the device are a mix, including parts DataWind has designed itself to save costs.

"This is not a one-time opportunity," Suneet Singh Tuli told the Toronto Star newspaper. "There are 2½ to 3 million students entering university every year, as well as 80 million students in Grades 9 to 12, and the government is very serious about making mobile products available to this age group."

"I could tell you a romantic story about two Indian brothers who arrive in Montreal to get a great Canadian education, become citizens, and then go back to India to bring Internet to the masses," says Tuli.

"But the reality is, this is all about profit - my investors and board wouldn't want it any other way."

To compare, the Amazon Kindle Fire device (<http://www.amazon.com/Kindle-Fire-Color/dp/B0051VVOB2>), which launched recently, sells for US \$199 and has fewer features.

"The rich have access to the digital world; the poor and ordinary have been excluded. Aakash will end that digital divide," Kapil Sibal, India's education minister told the Financial Times.

India's initiatives are heating up competition with the One Laptop Per Child project set up by MIT professor Nicholas Negroponte (<http://one.laptop.org>). The colourful OLPC laptop sells for around US \$200, and 2 million have been distributed to Latin America, Africa elsewhere.

While many companies and entrepreneurs are developing products for the poor and the bottom of the pyramid (BOP) markets, it is still a difficult thing to get right. A big issue is aspiration: consumers are still attracted to products they perceive as aspirational and quality, despite a higher price.

"(Aakash) might suffer the Nano syndrome," Shashi Bhusan, technology analyst at brokerage Prabhudas Lilladher, told the Financial Times, referring to the cheap made-in-India car that failed to catch on (<http://tatanano.inservices.tatamotors.com/tatamotors>). "It is always difficult to predict the market's reaction to a product, but what we have learnt from the Nano is that people don't want to buy the 'car-like' product, they want the real thing ... I feel the same will probably happen with this 'laptop-like' product."

And others strongly disagree that gadgets can transcend the deep-seated social problems that need radical change.

"It is charity of a very superficial nature," said George Mathew, director of Delhi's Institute of Social Sciences. "It has nothing to do with the structure and permanency of our society and our system - you have to work for systemic change."

Earlier this year an Indian company produced a rival to Amazon's Kindle ([www.amazon.co.uk/Kindle-Store/b?ie=UTF8&node=341677031](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Kindle-Store/b?ie=UTF8&node=341677031)). The Wink ([www.thewinkstore.com/ereader/index](http://www.thewinkstore.com/ereader/index)) is designed to accommodate 15 common Indian languages, comes in an eye-catching design and is complemented by a sleek website stuffed with e-books ready for download. The entire package is very well-thought-out and marketed.

The Wink was developed and built by EC Media International and retails, according to its website, for Rs 8,999 (US \$200). It looks similar to the Kindle, but where the Kindle is grey the Wink is white. This Indian rival has some impressive capabilities: it can not only support 15 Indian languages, it can also access an online library of more than 200,000 book titles. They range from arts and entertainment to biography, newspapers and science topics. There is also a large archive of free books for download.

But it has come in for criticism for its price, which some say is far too high for the Indian market.

As has been shown by the information technology experience in other countries, it is constant innovation and trial and error which will eventually create successes. But with persistence, this is one space to keep watching.

#### **LINKS:**

1) How to build your own personal computer: This guide helps to demystify computing hardware and shows how to build a computer at home. **Website:** [www.buildeasypc.com/](http://www.buildeasypc.com/)

2) Hardware design and architecture: An archive of free e-books on all aspects of computer hardware and architecture design. An outstanding resource to get anyone started in computer engineering. **Website:** [www.e-booksdirectory.com/listing.php?category=38](http://www.e-booksdirectory.com/listing.php?category=38)

3) Jonathan Ive is the man behind the highly successful and user-friendly modern design that has turned the Apple computer brand into such a global success story. He provides tips on how to design usable computer hardware and shares the secrets of his success. **Website:** [www.wired.com/culture/design/news/2003/06/59381](http://www.wired.com/culture/design/news/2003/06/59381)

#### **Window on the World**

Check out our website: [www.southerninnovator.org](http://www.southerninnovator.org)



Our new magazine, Southern Innovator, has launched: the first issue's theme is mobile phones and information technology. Throughout 2011, we will be launching more media products building on the success of the Development Challenges, South-South Solutions e-newsletter: stay tuned for more developments. Please contact the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation if you would like a copy (copies) of the new magazine. E-mail: [ssc.info@undp.org](mailto:ssc.info@undp.org)

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Also check out our SouthSouth Expo: this year's Expo will be in Rome, Italy from 5 to 9 December 2011: [www.southsouthexpo.org](http://www.southsouthexpo.org)

## **Books**

*Living in the Endless City* edited by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, Publisher: Phaidon. The city is the subject of the 21st century. All over the world, populations are shifting towards urban centres. *Living in the Endless City* depicts an authoritative survey of cities of today and the prospects for our urban future of tomorrow. 36 contributors from across Europe, South America, China, Africa and the U.S. set the agenda for the city - detailing its successes as well as its failures. **Website:** <http://www.urban-age.net/publications/living-in-the-endless-city/>

*Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism* by Chandran Nair, Publisher: Infinite Ideas. **Website:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It* by Pankaj Ghemawat, Publisher: Harvard Business School Press. **Website:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*How the West Was Lost: Fifty Years of Economic Folly – And the Stark Choices Ahead* by Dambisa Moyo, Publisher: Allen Lane. The new book from challenging thinker Moyo, it argues the West needs to start following China's economic model or face economic ruin. **Website:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform* by Justin Yifu Lin, Publisher: The Chinese University Press. **Website:** [www.eurospanbookstore.com](http://www.eurospanbookstore.com)

*Africa in the Global Economy* by Richard E. Mshomba, Publisher: Lynne Rienner. **Website:** [www.eurospanbookstore.com](http://www.eurospanbookstore.com)

*The Recession Prevention Handbook: Eleven Case Studies, 1948-2007* by Norman Frumkin, Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** [www.eurospanbookstore.com](http://www.eurospanbookstore.com)

*The Roller Coaster Economy: Financial Crises, Great Recession and the Public Option* by Howard J. Sherman, Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** [www.eurospanbookstore.com](http://www.eurospanbookstore.com)

*Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance* by David McNally, Publisher: PM Press. *Global Slump* analyzes the global financial meltdown as the first systemic crisis of the neoliberal stage of capitalism. It argues that – far from having ended – the crisis has ushered in a whole period of worldwide economic and political turbulence. In developing an account of the crisis as rooted in fundamental features of capitalism, *Global Slump* challenges the view that its source lies in financial deregulation. **Website:** [https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product\\_detail&p=271](https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=271)

*Aftershock: Reshaping the World Economy After the Crisis* by Philippe Legrain, Publisher: Little, Brown. **Website:** <http://www.philippelegrain.com/aftershock/>

*Creative Ecologies: Where Thinking is a Proper Job* by John Howkins, Publisher: UQP. **Website:** [www.creativeeconomy.com/think.htm](http://www.creativeeconomy.com/think.htm)

*The Global Crisis: The Path to the World Afterwards* by Frank Biancheri, Publisher: Anticipolis. **Website:** [http://www.anticipolis.eu/en\\_index.php](http://www.anticipolis.eu/en_index.php)

*The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society* by Frans de Waal, Publisher: Crown. **Website:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*Arrival City* by Doug Saunders, Publisher: Pantheon. A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — centres of febrile settlement that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net/>

*China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit?* by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** [http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats\\_New/Reports/Kinarapport\\_A4.pdf](http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf)

*Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind* by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:** [http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12\\_GACL.htm](http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm)

*Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity* by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan. **Website:** <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073>

*State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development* Publisher: Making Cents International. **Website:** [www.youthenterpriseconference.org](http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org)

*Urban World: A New Chapter in Urban Development* Publisher: UNHABITAT **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/31244004/Urban-World-A-New-Chapter-in-Urban-Development>

*Building Decent Societies: Rethinking the Role of Social Security in Development* edited by Peter Townsend, Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** [www.ilo.org/publins](http://www.ilo.org/publins)

*World of Work Report 2010: From One Crisis to the Next?* Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** [www.ilo.org/publins](http://www.ilo.org/publins)

*From the Great Recession to Labour Market Recovery: Issues, Evidence and Policy Options* edited by Iyanatul Islam and Sher Verick, Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** [www.ilo.org/publins](http://www.ilo.org/publins)

## **Papers and Reports**

*Illicit Financial Flows from the Least Developed Countries: 1990-2008* UNDP-Commissioned Report  
Contact: Monique Perry Danziger  
**Email:** [mdanziger@gfip.org](mailto:mdanziger@gfip.org)  
**Website:** <http://www.financialtaskforce.org/2011/05/12/undp-commissioned-report-from-global-financial-integrity-%E2%80%9Cillicit-financial-flows-from-the-least-developed-countries-1990-2008%E2%80%9D-now-available/>

*Information Economy Report 2010: ICTs, Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation* Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13912&intItemID=2068&lang=1>

*State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life* Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011>

*Still our Common Interest: Commission for Africa Report 2010* Publisher: Commission for Africa **Website:** <http://www.commissionforafrica.info/2010-report>

*World Economic Outlook Update: Restoring Confidence without Harming Recovery* Publisher: IMF. **Website:** <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/update/02/index.htm>

*Trade and Development Report, 2010: Employment, Globalization and Development* Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13740&intItemID=2068&lang=1>

*Empowering People and Transforming Society: The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2011* Publisher: World Economic Forum. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/35953976/Technology-Pioneers-2011>

*The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries* Publisher: OECD. **Website:** [www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en](http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en) (PDF - 2.09 mb)

*The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050* by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy. **Website:** [http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper\\_39-web-1.pdf](http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf)

*The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa* by Hany Besada, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development. **Website:** [http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper\\_40-web.pdf](http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf)

*Europe-North Korea: Between Humanitarianism and Business?* Edited by Myungkyu Park, Bernhard Seliger and Sung-Jo Park, Publisher: LIT. **Website:** [www.gpic.nl/EU - North Korea book.pdf](http://www.gpic.nl/EU - North Korea book.pdf)

*Global Economic Decoupling Alive and Well* Emerging economies decouple from the US, come closer to Europe. **Website:** <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article23670.html>

*The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth"* Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010. **Website:** [http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU\\_ResearchBrief\\_10-01.pdf](http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf)

*Where Western business sees ‘risk’, Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity*  
by Dr Jing Gu. Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa. **Website:**  
<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity>

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*Can China Save Western Economies From Collapse?* **Website:**  
<http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article19484.html>

*China's economic invasion of Africa* **Website:**  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/06/chinas-economic-invasion-of-africa>

*Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case* **Website:**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history>

### **On the Web**

### **Blogs and Websites**

**mDirectory:** The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

**Global Development:** Launched in September 2010, this new website from the Guardian newspaper will track progress on the MDGs, encourage debate on its blogs, offer a rich store of datasets from around the world, and feature monthly podcasts and resources for schools. **Website:**  
[www.guardian.co.uk/global-development](http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development)

### **Latameconomy Website Launches**

Latameconomy.org is the latest evolution of the annual Latin American Economic Outlook report, essentially bringing its trusted, high quality content into the digital age. Its wide country coverage and methods of analysis are essential for anyone seeking to understand the economic, social and political developments of Latin American countries.

**Website:** [www.latameconomy.org/en/](http://www.latameconomy.org/en/)

### **International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs)**

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development.

**Website:** [www.networkideas.org/](http://www.networkideas.org/)

### **OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website**

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery.

**Website:**

[http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_201185\\_41707672\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_100.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_100.html)

**The Global Urbanist:** News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. **Website:** [www.globalurbanist.com](http://www.globalurbanist.com)

**ICT Update:** A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:**

<http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29/56>

**Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program website:** The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services.

**Website:** [www.yfslink.org](http://www.yfslink.org)

*Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment* **Website:** <http://triplecrisis.com/>

**Full Disclosure:** The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community. **Website:** [www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure](http://www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure)

**Africa Portal:** An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent. **Website:** [www.africaportal.org](http://www.africaportal.org)

**African Economic Outlook:** A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

**Website:** [www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en](http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en)

**Africa Renewal:** The *Africa Renewal* information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. **Website:** [www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/](http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/)

### **Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor**

With “a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities.”

**Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

**AfriGadget:** AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions. **Website:** [www.afrigadget.com/](http://www.afrigadget.com/)

*Silicon Savanna: Mobile Phones Transform Africa* **Website:** <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2080702,00.html>

### **Interesting Blogger**

**Olunyi D. Ajaو:** An Internet entrepreneur & technology enthusiast with strong interests in web design and hosting, writing about mobile communications technologies, and blogging. Topics are aimed at web designers, SEOs, bloggers, Internet entrepreneurs and people with general interests in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and the rest of Africa. **Website:** <http://www.davidajao.com/blog/>

### **Social Media**

#### **Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

**Website:** [www.sacca.biz](http://www.sacca.biz)

**AfriGadget on Facebook:** ‘Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity’: **Website:** [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579)

### **Start-up Funding**

#### **The SEED Initiative**

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. The annual SEED Awards help to develop the most promising social and environmental start-ups in emerging economies and developing countries.

**Website:**

<http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2647&ArticleID=8798&l=en>

**Crowdfund:** A South African-based venture fund for technology start-ups in Africa. **Website:** [www.crowdfunding.co.za/](http://www.crowdfunding.co.za/)

**Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

**Website:** [www.socialedge.org](http://www.socialedge.org)

**The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award**

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

**Website:** <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

**Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition**

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

**Website:** [www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd](http://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd)

**Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

**Website:** [www.echoinggreen.org/](http://www.echoinggreen.org/)

**Commonwealth Teams up with Private Equity Firm to Deliver up to \$400 Million in Investment in Africa**

Small and medium enterprises across Africa are set to benefit from a multimillion dollar investment fund set up by private equity firm Aureos Capital ([www.aureos.com/](http://www.aureos.com/)) with the Commonwealth Secretariat's assistance. The Aureos Africa Fund, launched in November following feasibility and due diligence studies funded by the Secretariat, will provide long-term capital and support for promising and successful businesses across the continent.

Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Ransford Smith, speaking at the launch of the fund at the Marriot Hotel in London, UK, on 2 November 2009, hailed the fund's launch. He warned that investment in Africa was "critical" if recent development gains were not to be lost amid the current worldwide recession. "This fund has the potential to make a real contribution to Commonwealth countries in Africa, by helping ordinary businesses to reach their potential and boost much needed growth and jobs across the continent," he said.

**Website:**

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/215560/021109aureoscapital.htm>

**The Africa Land Fund**

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

**Email:** info@eaml.net

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1428 656 966

**Fax:** +44 (0) 1428 656 955

**Challenge**

InnoCentive ([www.innocentive.com/](http://www.innocentive.com/)) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. **Website:**

[www.rockfound.org/about\\_us/news/2007/0720first\\_seeker.shtml](http://www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml)

**Video**

**Forum for the Future:** Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony. **Website:**  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

**Events**

**2011**

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to [developmentchallenges@googlemail.com](mailto:developmentchallenges@googlemail.com).

**October**

**2011 EABIS Colloquium “A new era of development: the changing role and responsibilities of business in developing countries”**

Fountainebleau, France (26-27 October 2011)

The rise in “south-south” trade has challenged the hegemony of western norms in trade and business such as transparency, governance and ethics. And while more business is being done in developing countries, there is little agreement about the responsibilities of business in development. At the same time food, health, poverty and education issues as well as corruption and bribery in developing countries require urgent action.

**Website:** [www.insead.edu/events/eabis](http://www.insead.edu/events/eabis)

## **November**

### **G South Africa 2.0**

Johannesburg, South Africa (2-3 November 2011)

At Google, we believe in the philosophy to launch and iterate. This year, we bring you our iteration 2.0 of G|South Africa. With fresh content, a stronger focus on strategy and more hands-on sessions, we will provide businesses, marketers, techies and entrepreneurs a chance to engage directly with the latest and greatest from Google. You will engage with our international Google team, get the chance to ask questions and enjoy a day with top peers. We also think you can be serious without a suit, so we are putting popcorn in your hands and hosting this year's G|South Africa <sup>2.0</sup> at Turbine Hall - The Forum. To attend this free event, please complete the application below corresponding to the day(s) you would like to attend. Space is limited so act fast!

**Website:** <https://sites.google.com/site/gsouthafrica20/>

### **Sustainable Opportunities Summit**

Denver, CO, USA (4-5 November 2011)

The sixth annual Sustainable Opportunities Summit, the largest business sustainability conference is designed for business (large and small), governmental and academic leaders and influencers who are interested in learning how organizations are realizing market opportunities and significant cost savings through strategic sustainability initiatives.

**Website:** [www.sosummit.org](http://www.sosummit.org)

### **Social Singularity Summit**

Amsterdam, Netherlands (11 November 2011)

A gathering of thinkers and entrepreneurs to explore the opportunities and visions of Social Singularity. The summit has been organized to further the understanding of how to speed up and use the newest technologies to make the world a better place.

**Website:** [www.nowmovement.org/detail/events](http://www.nowmovement.org/detail/events)

### **10<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress – Cities in Translation**

Porto Alegre, Brazil (23 November to 25 November 2011)

10th Metropolis World Congress is a unique exchange and networking opportunity that gathers urban planners, government leaders, city managers, urban management experts, international NGOs, academics, and other important stakeholders from around the world. The Congress will revolve around the theme "Cities in Transition". Cities are presently in transition toward new types of challenges concerning the environment, governance, sustainability, innovation, and collaboration, all of which are taking place on an everyday basis. Therefore Metropolis invites us all to consider our future as urban citizens. The event will also be a chance to learn first-hand about the groundbreaking public policies implemented by Porto Alegre, the Capital of Participatory Democracy.

**Website:** <http://portoalegrecongress2011.metropolis.org/>

### **International Green Awards**

London, UK (24 November 2011)

Launched in 2006 to critical acclaim, the **INTERNATIONAL GREEN AWARDS™** were set up to recognize strategies that use creativity in an engaging and effective manner, leading to more sustainable outcomes. It is now an established event on the global sustainable business-calendar.

**Website:** [www.greenawards.com](http://www.greenawards.com)

### **Fourth High Level Forum: The Path to Effective Development**

Busan, South Korea (29 November to 1 December 2011)

Ministers and specialists will not only take stock of what has been advanced since 2008, but also set out a new framework for increasing the quality of aid in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Developing countries have named their priorities for HLF-4 as: predictable aid; use of country systems; an end to policy conditionality; country-driven capacity development; mutual accountability and reduced transaction costs.

**Website:**

[http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_3236398\\_46057868\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_46057868_1_1_1_1,00.html)

### **December**

#### **Global South-South Development Expo 2011**

FAO Rome, Italy (5-9 December 2011)

The Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) is the FIRST EVER Expo solely from the South and for the South. It showcases successful Southern-grown development solutions (SDSs) to address the need to meet Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is designed as a concrete response to the strong commitment made by the Secretary-General and the UNDP Administrator to help the global South realize its shared aspirations for achieving sustainable and equitable development through the sharing and transfer of SDSs, with the support of the donor community and the multilateral system under innovative triangular and public-private partnership (PPP) arrangements. It also constitutes one of the Special Unit's three global and United Nations system-wide South-South support platforms.

**Website:** [www.southsouthexpo.org](http://www.southsouthexpo.org)

#### **European Development Days 2011**

Warsaw, Poland (15-16 December 2011)

The sixth edition of European Development Days brings together male and female politicians, parliamentarians, representatives of international institutions, local authorities, NGOs, business leaders, researchers, journalists, artists and students... all to share their knowledge and their experiences. At every level, participants, hosts, moderators, debaters, exhibitors, whether they're from the North or the South, can all take part, put forward their ideas, examine creative solutions and question responsibilities. The debates are in plenary sessions or in bilateral meetings, in workshops or in the framework of parallel events, in quiet lounges or before the press. The

European Development Days represent an opportunity to make good use of the diversity of viewpoints and models operating in the world.

**Website:** <http://www.eudevdays.eu/#>

## **2012**

### **Earth Summit 2012: Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2012**

Rio, Brazil (TBC 2012)

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to a new Earth Summit in December. The Summit will be in 2012 and will be hosted by Brazil. The themes are the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, emerging issues and a review of present commitments. This site will keep you abreast of all the developments and latest news.

**Website:** <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>

## **Awards and Funding**

### **World Summit Youth Award**

The international contest for young people using the Internet and mobiles to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goals. **Website:** [www.youthaward.org](http://www.youthaward.org)

### **Grand Challenges Canada: Request for proposals**

Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce a new initiative in its Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health grand challenge. It's called Saving Brains. Its goal is to unlock potential in children and dramatically transform lives in the developing world.

The money to fund this program comes from the Development Innovation Fund. In Budget 2008, the Government of Canada committed \$225 million CAD over five years to the Development Innovation Fund, to support the best minds in the world in a collaborative search for solutions to global health challenges.

For the Request for Proposals: **Website:** [http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request\\_for\\_Proposals-Saving\\_Brains\\_EN.pdf](http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request_for_Proposals-Saving_Brains_EN.pdf)

### **Zayed Future Energy Prize**

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability.

**Website:** [www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/](http://www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/)

### **Philips Liveable Cities Award**

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for “simple solutions” that will improve people’s health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

**Website:** <http://www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

### **Piramal Foundation in India**

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India’s rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India’s health-care crisis.

**Website:** [www.piramalprize.org](http://www.piramalprize.org)

### **Special Award for South-South Transfer - winners announced!**

UN-HABITAT, the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation are pleased to announce the winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award, a special joint initiative which seeks to recognise housing and urban development practices that have been successfully transferred to other countries in the global South. The winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award is **Un Techo Para mi País (A Roof for my Country)**, Chile, awarded for mobilising thousands of youth volunteers and transferring its innovative approach to 19 countries across Latin America.

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative.

The winning practice receives US\$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries.

**Website:** [www.southsouthexpo.org](http://www.southsouthexpo.org)

### **South-South Experience Exchange Facility**

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

**Website:** [www.southsouthcases.info](http://www.southsouthcases.info)

### **African Writers Fund**

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

#### **Website:**

[http://www.trustAfrica.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr](http://www.trustAfrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr)

### **Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme**

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

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### **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

**Website:** [www.architectureforhumanity.org](http://www.architectureforhumanity.org)

### **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The University of Ghana ([www.ug.edu.gh](http://www.ug.edu.gh)) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution ([www.agra-alliance.org](http://www.agra-alliance.org)) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

**Website:** [www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10](http://www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10)

### **Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

**Website:** <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

## **Training**

*Ongoing*

## **Jobs and Careers**

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market: **Website:** [www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php](http://www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php)

### **Global Knowledge Initiative**

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

**Website:** [www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/](http://www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/)

### **ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market**

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

**Website:** <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

### **Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website**

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects. **Website:** [www.devex.org](http://www.devex.org)

### **Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

**Website:** [www.africacareerguidance.com](http://www.africacareerguidance.com)

### **African Diaspora Skills Database**

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

**Website:** [www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database](http://www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database)

### **Aid Workers Network (AWN)**

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

**Website:** [www.aidworkers.net](http://www.aidworkers.net)

### **Bizzlounge**

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

**Website:**

<http://bizzlounge.com>

### **Business Action for Africa**

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

**Website:** <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

### **Business Fights Poverty**

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

**Website:** <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

### **Business in Development Network (BiD)**

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

**Website:** [www.bidnetwork.org](http://www.bidnetwork.org)

### **Zunia**

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

**Website:** [www.zunia.org](http://www.zunia.org)

### **Catalogue of Poverty Networks**

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

**Website:** [www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do)

### **Connections for Development (CfD)**

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

**Website:** [www.cfdnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk)

### **Development Crossing**

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

**Website:** [www.developmentcrossing.com](http://www.developmentcrossing.com)

### **DevelopmentAid.org**

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

**Website:** [www.developmentaid.org](http://www.developmentaid.org)

### **dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (now Zunia.org)**

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

**Website:** <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

### **Diaspora African Forum**

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

**Website:** [www.diasporafricanforum.org](http://www.diasporafricanforum.org)

### **Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship**

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

**Website:** <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [Find a Job in Africa](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)